

Comp Plan Update Near Completion

The Board of Commissioners approved the 2002 Lake County Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan. The Plan reflects a desire by the Commission to continue to seek alternative funding, such as grants, in order to offer expanded services over the next ten years.

"Our goal is not to expand our regulatory authority or any other authority, but to prioritize in order to expand on our current

services," said Steve Mountsier, SMC chairman.

The Commission's planned expanded services include flood hazard mitigation, watershed planning, and rain and stream gage network enhancements. The Plan includes sufficient details on current and planned services to guide the development of annual work programs.

"Our budget will likely remain at status quo over the next several

years but we've leveraged millions in grants and cost-share funds to substantially add to our projects. For the taxpayer, I'd say they are getting a great value," said Mountsier.

This year alone, SMC has received over \$2 million in grants. Once the plan is adopted in November, the document will be available on cd and on our website.

WDO Marks First 10 Years

October 18, 2002 marked the tenth anniversary of the Lake County Watershed Development Ordinance, a landmark document outlining minimum countywide standards for new development. At the time the WDO was passed by SMC and the County Board, the county ranked fifth as the fastest growing county in the country. The challenge was a balance between economic growth and natural resource protection. "Our task was to

ensure that the economic interests dominating the landscape would not exacerbate our flooding problems and be detrimental to our natural resources. Many entities came together to develop and pass the strongest environmental document in the history of the county," said Suzi Schmidt, Lake County Board chairman, and an original member of the Stormwater Planning Committee and SMC.

(cont'd on page 3)

SMC Provides Erosion Control Training

Neumann Homes, Inc. and SMC staff came together for a one-on-one training for better soil erosion and sediment control on developing sites.

Fifteen Neumann Homes site personnel met with Tim Cook, Perry Danler and Joe Hmielewski. Buffers, wetlands and water quality Best Management

Practices were also covered.

"We are available to do similar training with other developers upon request. The goal is to train those who will be working on sites in Lake County under WDO standards," said Mike Warner, Chief Engineer.

For more information, call Mike at (847) 918-5267.

Homeowners Guide Available December 2.

Detention ponds, swales and other stormwater management systems are all in need of maintenance. SMC's new "Citizens Guide for Stormwater Best Management Practices Maintenance" is ideal for homeowners associations and property owners who are responsible for managing stormwater systems.

The Guide is an easy to read, self-help document to help you identify your BMPs, how and when to inspect them, and planning for routine and non-routine maintenance. The guide will be available December 1. A workshop based on the guide will be planned next spring.

Manuals are \$10 per hard copy or cd, or downloaded for free at at: www.co.lake.il.us/smc/publications.

For more information, call Susan Vancil at (847) 918-5265.

Roundtables Net NPDES II Strategy

Municipal and county representatives have gathered over the past three months to agree on a coordinated approach to implement phase two of the USEPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES II). NPDES II affects nearly every municipality in the county along with every township and drainage district.

SMC is taking the lead on coordinating the local program, and will provide technical assistance and outreach services. This approach still gives the local entities freedom to tailor their own programs to meet the six minimum control standards outlined in the NPDES regulations.

Local entities will also benefit from the ad-hoc Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC), made up of municipal, township, drainage district, consulting and county representatives. MAC will coordinate and review Notice of Intent (NOI) and other program components. The goal of NPDES II is to preserve, protect, and improve water resources by reducing pollutants in stormwater

NPDES II PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- SMC sponsor of local program
- Each entity submits own NOI
- Each entity responsible for implementation of its program (with assistance from SMC)
- Takes advantage of 4 of 6 minimum control standards already in place
- Allows local entity to tailor its own program

NPDES II MINIMUM CONTROL STANDARDS

- Public education, outreach (SMC)
- Public participation, involvement (SMC)
- Construction site runoff control (WDO)
- Post-construction runoff control (WDO)
- Illicit discharge detection, elimination
- Municipal pollution prevention, good housekeeping

runoff. Watch SMC's website for more on NPDES Phase II and its implementation in Lake County.

Wetland Pros Gather to Share Techniques

Over 50 certified wetland and engineering professionals from around Lake County met in July for the first-ever WetPro forum series sponsored by SMC. The forums are an opportunity to discuss and share information and techniques related to WDO isolated wetland standards.

The next forum will be held at SMC offices on Oct. 25, 9:30-11:30 a.m. The topic will be wetland delineations. There is a \$5 fee for continental breakfast. Reservations are requested by calling Chris Garner at (847) 918-5262 or email cgarner@co.lake.il.us.



Speakers from the first WetPro included (l-r): Joe Hmielecki, SMC; Mike Murphy, Corps; Jamie Hammit, Corps; Dan Krill, Lake County Dept. of Building and Zoning; and Glenn Westman, SMC.

Building Materials Donated to Habitat

SMC teamed up with Habitat for Humanity Lake County to salvage non-damaged building materials from the most recent floodplain homes bought by SMC.

Cabinets, vanities, light fixtures and even bathroom sinks were rescued from the homes before demolition. Builders and the general public have the opportunity to buy the materials at HFHLC's "ReStore" in North Chicago. All sales fund HFHLC's home building program.

"This is a cost-savings to SMC in that we don't pay for hauling the materials to a landfill. At the same time, this benefits future homeowners who need these materials and can purchase them at low cost," said Sara Agahi, Watershed Planner.

SMC just completed the purchase of its 50th home through its buyout program. The latest homes were funded in part by IDNR-OWR and the County's Capital Improvement Program.

New Look For Website Coming in December

SMC and the Lake County Department of Management Services will unveil SMC's new website look in December.

The website is more user friendly and better organized by key programs such as regulatory, planning, rain gages and projects.

The website address will stay the same.

BUS TOUR THROUGH UPPER DES PLAINES



Staff from the Forest Preserve District highlight the water quality, habitat, flood storage and restoration efforts at Rollins Savannah in Grayslake.

Members of the Des Plaines Phase II project delivery team and subcommittees got a close look at tributary projects and challenges in the Upper Des Plaines watershed in Lake County on September 12. Stops included the multi-objective Sturm flood

reduction project, Lake Zurich detention retrofit project, Indian Creek Watershed Project at Reed-Turner Nature Preserve, Village of Gurnee's flood hazard mitigation plan, and the Lake County Forest Preserve District's Rollins Savannah restoration project.

13 Staff Now CFMs

SMC now leads the way in Illinois with the highest number of Certified Floodplain Managers (CFM). Thirteen staff successfully passed the challenging CFM exam through the Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management.

Being a CFM means passing one of the most stringent nationwide tests on floodplain mapping, requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program, requirements of the state's floodplain management program and administrative procedures at the local level.

SMC CFM's include: Sara Agahi, Tim Cook, Perry Danler, Joe Hmielewski, Ward Miller, Jason Obergfell, Minal Steineman, Susan Vancil, Mike Warner, Patty Werner, Glenn Westman, Sean Wiedel, Tony Wolff.

WDO Anniversary *cont'd. from page 1*

Through the hard work of the Technical Advisory Committee, the WDO has gone through two major revisions and three smaller ones to make it the most effective ordinance of its kind in the state. There are only two other counties with similar ordinances on the books.

Here are a few other highlights in the development and implementation of the WDO:

October 1992 – What was then known as the Illinois Department of Transportation – Division of Water Resources delegated floodway-permitting authority to SMC. This marked the first time DWR granted permitting authority to a county stormwater agency in the state.

December 1992 – Thirty-two communities were "certified" to administer

SMC Says Farewell to Commissioners

With over 20 years of collective service to SMC, commissioners Martha Marks, Lorretta McCarley and Dr. John Schulien are going to be missed. Among their other contributions, Martha was a key player in the Des Plaines Phase II planning effort; Loretta brought stakeholders together to get the Bull Creek watershed project started; and John worked to balance the budget with work program initiatives. We thank them for their unending support of SMC staff and programs, and we wish them well in their lives and in their future endeavors.

Phase II is concentrating on tributary flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration .

the WDO within their own jurisdictions.

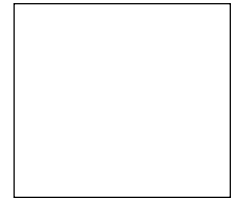
April 1993 – The first Permit Review Fee Schedule was approved by SMC for SMC permit review and inspections in non-certified communities.

March 1995 – SMC implemented a field inspection program that incorporated routine inspections with Enforcement Officer assistance to remediate potential violations. The majority of site investigations were erosion control related.

June 2002 – An Interagency Coordination agreement executed between the Army Corps, SMC and Lake County PB&D to streamline wetland jurisdictional determinations.

For more milestones and tidbits please see our website at: www.co.lake.il.us/smc.

Lake County Stormwater Management Commission
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www.co.lake.il.us/smc



Board of Commissioners

Steve Mountsier, *Chairman*, County Board #17
Tom Adams, *Vice Chair*, Village of Green Oaks
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John Schulien, County Board #13
Tom Skinner, Village of Lake Bluff

Ward Miller, AICP, Executive Director

Fall 2002 Newsletter - Please notify us of address changes.

For Your Information

Fish Lake Drain Residents...Get involved in our watershed management planning efforts. See our website for the next meeting or call Jason at (847) 918-5275.

SMC Meetings - 6:30 p.m.
November 7, December 5. SMC offices.

TAC Meetings - 8:30 a.m.
November 15. December 20. SMC offices.

WMB Annual Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
December 4. SMC offices. All WMB members are asked to attend to approve FY'03 cost-share projects.

The Upper Des Plaines Ecosystem Partnership needs you...Join up and help guide the management of this interstate watershed through Lake and Cook Counties and Southeast Wisconsin. For more information call Ingrid West, Partnership Coordinator at (847) 566-9189.

Laramy New GIS Specialist



Jeff Laramy develops GIS products and manages the PC network. His number is (847) 918-5268.

FY'03 budget is "status quo"...SMC has submitted its FY'03 budget of \$2.2 million. The County Board will be approving the budget in November.

We've got the look....Many thanks to **Marilyn Fetting** and **Larry Obermeyer**, Lake County Dept. of Management Services, for their expertise on our new website look!

The Technical Advisory Committee is reviewing draft Technical Reference Manual chapters. To view draft chapters in PDF format, see our website under "TAC."

Combined conferences next year...The Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management and the Association for State Floodplain Managers are coordinating on next year's ASFPM national conference in St. Louis, May 11-16, 2003. This will be your best source of stormwater training in the country! Watch the ASFPM website for more: www.floods.org.

Thanks NPDES II MAC members for volunteering your time...John Boldt, Steve Bicking, Bill Blecke, Dave Brown, Al Giertych, Jennifer Hughes, Ed Lebbos, John Reindl, George Russell, Pat Sheeran, Jim Stevens, Kent Street, Yamin Yamin, and Dave Ziegler.